

Announcing the

UNITED  
STATES  
MINT

1993

*Silver  
Proof  
Set*



FROM RAW ORE

TO REFINED  
BEAUTY



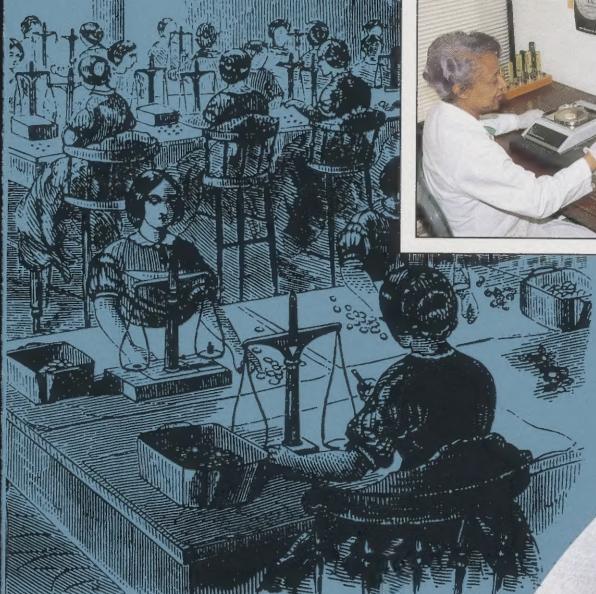
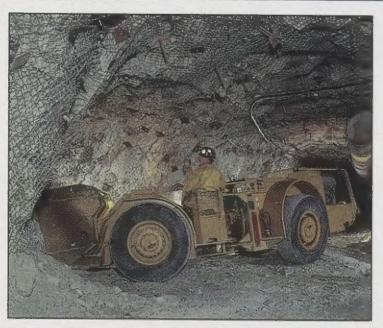


Nineteenth century prospectors have evolved into 20th century geologists. Today's geologists use helicopters rather than mules to seek out silver deposits and diamond bit drills to take samples. But finding silver ore is only the first step in a long process. Next comes mining, milling, smelting, and minting. Although technology makes this easier, wresting silver from nature's grip remains a test of human determination.



## FROM RAW ORE





Precious metal ore is usually found in hard rock formations beneath the surface of the earth. Like their predecessors of a hundred years ago, miners today use explosives to break apart the rock encasing this treasure. Today's motorized vehicles have replaced shovels and mules for the work of collecting and transporting ore to the surface.

Unrefined ore is transported to mills where it is ground into a fine powder. Further refining separates valuable minerals such as gold and silver from waste materials. The result is a concentrated black powder which is sent to a smelter.

A smelter completes the final steps in the refinement of the silver. The pure metals are then shipped to manufacturers. There, the metal is turned into flat sheets and stamped into coin blanks.

The journey from raw ore to refined beauty is long and arduous, but the results make it all worthwhile: the glistening, breathtaking beauty of silver. With the issue of the 1993 Silver Proof Set, the United States Mint once again makes it possible for you to collect or give one of life's most remarkable treasures.



TO REFINED BEAUTY

THE  
UNITED  
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presents

*The  
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THE 1993  
*Silver  
Proof  
Set*

The 1993 Silver Proof Set, which comes in stunning black packaging, is ideal for collectors. The coins in this set offer the same beautiful designs as circulating coins, but the dime, quarter, and half dollar are struck in 90 percent silver or coin silver, the standard alloy for America's silver coinage since 1837. These coins are produced at the San Francisco Mint and bear the "S" mint mark. Each set comes with a Certificate of Authenticity.

*A Special  
Pre-Issue  
Price*

For a limited time, the Mint is pleased to offer both the 1993 Silver Proof Set and the 1993 Premier Silver Proof Set to you at special pre-issue discount prices of \$18.00 and \$29.00 respectively. To qualify for this pre-issue discount, orders must be postmarked no later than August 31, 1993. After that date prices will be \$21.00 for the Silver Proof Set and \$37.00 for the Premier Silver Proof Set.

THE UNITED STATES MINT

# Celebrating the Evolution of Excellence

The United States Mint proudly presents the 1993 Silver Proof Set. This is the second consecutive year the Mint has issued silver proof sets. Prior to 1965, U.S. dimes, quarters, and half dollars were struck in silver. By an act of Congress in 1965, the silver was eliminated from the dime and quarter, and the half dollar was cut from 90 percent to 40 percent silver. In 1971, the silver was also eliminated from the half dollar. Since then, all circulating dimes, quarters, half dollars and dollar coins have been made of cupro-nickel clad.

In 1990, Congress authorized the Mint to once again produce silver proof versions of circulating coins for sale to the public. The 1993 Silver Proof Set and Premier Silver Proof Set are issued under this legislation.



THE 1993  
*Premier  
Silver  
Proof  
Set*

The 1993 Premier Silver Proof Set is a perfect gift for any occasion. The gleaming beauty and intrinsic value of silver combine to create a gift that will be cherished for a lifetime. To make this set a truly special gift, we have created a package that conveys the quality and refinement of these precision-crafted silver proof coins. They rest in a rich, black velvet presentation case lined with elegant white satin and enhanced with shining silver colored accents. The case comes with a leather-grained black outer box and a parchment Certificate of Authenticity.

*A Gift  
To Mark  
Any Occasion*

An authentic silver proof set can mark life's important occasions and events in a meaningful way. It's ideal for birthdays, anniversaries (especially silver wedding anniversaries), christenings, and year-end holidays. Then again, why not order two and keep one for yourself. They make memorable personal keepsakes.

## How To Order

To order the 1993 Silver Proof Set and the 1993 Premier Silver Proof Set, simply complete the accompanying order form. Please don't forget to place both the form and your remittance in the return envelope.

If you have a question about your order, please don't hesitate to write or call us at:

Customer Service Center  
**UNITED STATES MINT**  
10001 Aerospace Road  
Lanham, Maryland 20706  
(301) 436-7400

We're available Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, Eastern Time. Other Mint offices serve primarily as production facilities and are not equipped to handle your inquiries as effectively as our Customer Service Center. So please be sure to use the number and address listed above.

United States Mint numismatic programs are self-supporting. All proceeds from sales, after reimbursement for costs, are deposited to the General Fund of the United States Treasury.

### ORDER NOW!

The special pre-issue discount  
price ends **AUGUST 31, 1993**



DESIGNED AND PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
UNITED STATES MINT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

## A MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES MINT

Dear Mint Customer:

I'm proud to tell you about the latest editions of silver coins from the United States Mint - the 1993 Silver Proof Set and the 1993 Premier Silver Proof Set.

Even if you have never ordered silver coins from the United States Mint before, you'll want to know about these. This may be the year you start your collection of silver coins to possess the images of American history recognized throughout the world.

The 1993 Silver Proof Sets are packaged in a distinctive, black folder enclosing a sealed display case.

The 1993 Premier Silver Proof Set comes in a striking black velvet presentation case lined with white satin. It's the ideal gift to add to a collection, or give for a wedding, graduation, anniversary, or any memorable occasion where only the finest will do.

I want to urge you to place your order early to take advantage of our special pre-issue pricing, and to guarantee that you receive these editions from the Mint.

This year for the first time we are also offering a silver medal, authorized by Congress, to honor Ben Franklin and the achievements of America's fire services. We believe devotees of American history will find this unique medal particularly appealing.

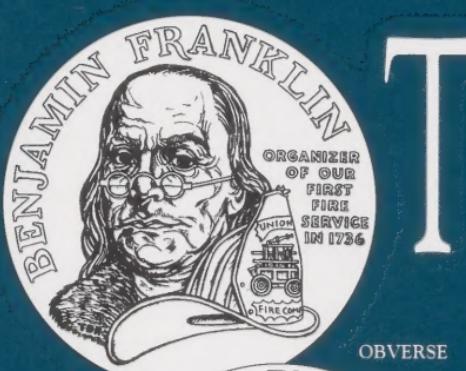
Sincerely,

*David J. Ryder*  
David J. Ryder  
Director

P.S. Have you considered starting a collection for the new baby in your family with a set minted in the year of his or her birth?

in recognition of the  
heroic contributions  
of firefighters  
past and present, the  
UNITED STATES MINT  
is proud to introduce

# THE BEN FRANKLIN FIREFIGHTERS SILVER MEDAL



Designs depicted are renderings  
and not actual size.



The United States Mint presents the Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal authorized by Congress in 1992.

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Struck in both proof and uncirculated condition at the Philadelphia Mint, each medal is 1.6" in diameter, contains one ounce of silver and bears the "P" mint mark. The legislation limits the mintage of these medals to 1.5 million, and none may be struck after June 30, 1994.

The Mint strikes each proof medal at least twice to create the frosted images and mirror-like background that distinguish proof medals and coins. These proof medals come in attractive, high-quality presentation cases. The uncirculated medals,

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which have a satin-like finish, have been placed in beautiful gift boxes. Both packages include Certificates of Authenticity.

The Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal is available at pre-issue prices of \$33 for the proof medal and \$29 for the uncirculated medal. To qualify for the pre-issue prices, orders must be postmarked no later than August 31, 1993. After that date, prices are \$36 for the proof medal and \$32 for the uncirculated medal.

In recognition of Ben Franklin and America's fire services, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of these National Medals will go to:

- Restoration of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at the Franklin Institute,
- The Institute of Life Safety Technology and Emergency Management Education,
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation,
- The International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation,
- The National Fire Protection Association's "Learn Not to Burn" Foundation,
- The National Volunteer Fire Council Foundation
- The National Association of State Fire Marshals, and
- The International Association of Arson Investigators Foundation.

## Ben Franklin, Firefighter

Ben Franklin deserves the title of America's first firefighter. He formed Philadelphia's first volunteer fire company in 1736 and set off a city-wide competition to organize the best fire department. In 1752, he founded the first successful fire insurance company in the colonies. He campaigned tirelessly for fire safety through his writings in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. One of his most notable quotes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," stemmed from his attempts to alert citizens to the danger of carrying hot coals in open warming pans.



## How to Order

To order the Ben Franklin Firefighters Silver Medal, complete the accompanying order form. Don't forget to place both the form and your remittance in the return envelope. If you have a question about your order, please call our Customer Service Center.



UNITED STATES MINT  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER  
10001 Aerospace Road  
Lanham, Maryland 20706  
(301) 436-7400

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